

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 9, 11 and 12 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 10 are canceled by the present amendment.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claim 12, and has indicated that claims 2 – 9 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant moved the recital of claim 2 into claim 1, thus placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 3 – 9 and 11 depend from claim 1, and as such, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant canceled claim 10. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,127,184 to Wardlaw. As mentioned above, Applicant amended claim 1 to include a recital that was previously presented in allowable claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(e) rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

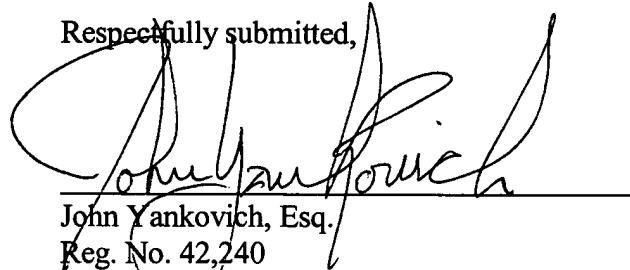
Claim 1 is amended to include a recital that was previously presented in claim 2. Claims 3 and 8 are amended to depend directly from claim 1. None of the amendments is intended to limit the scope of any of the terms of any of the claims, and therefore, the Doctrine of Equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Since this amendment neither raises new issues nor requires further consideration, entry is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that the present amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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